

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of preventing an attack on a screening algorithm, the method comprising the steps of:
  - 5 identifying content to be downloaded;
  - determining a total number of sections of a predetermined duration of time in the content to be downloaded; and
  - 10 screening a predetermined number of sections of the total number of sections to determine whether the predetermined number of sections verify correctly through the screening algorithm wherein the predetermined number of sections is a function of a characteristic of the content.
2. The method of preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 wherein the screening algorithm is  
15 a Secure Digital Music Initiative screening algorithm.
3. The method of preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 wherein the screening algorithm  
20 relies on a sampling of data contained within the identified content.
4. The method of preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 wherein the identified content is  
25 downloaded from the Internet.
5. The method of preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 wherein the predetermined duration of time of one or more of the total number of sections is about  
30 fifteen seconds.

6. The method of preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 wherein the number of predetermined sections screened during the screening step is two.

5       7. The method of preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of determining a total length of time of the content prior to the screening step.

10     8. The method of preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 wherein the predetermined number of sections is equal to two for content having a duration of about three minutes or less.

15     9. The method of preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 8 wherein the predetermined number of sections is incremented by one for each one minute of duration over the initial three minutes.

20     10. The method of preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 wherein the predetermined number of sections to be screened is a function of a duration of time for the content.

25     11. The method of preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 wherein the predetermined number of sections to be screened is dynamically determined as a function of a desired level of security versus a desired level of performance.

12. An apparatus for preventing an attack on a screening algorithm comprising:

a processor device; and

5 a memory device, wherein the processor device processes a screening algorithm stored on the memory device for screening content identified to be downloaded, wherein at least two sections of content are screened by the screening algorithm.

10 13. The apparatus for preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 12, wherein an additional section of content is screened by the screening algorithm for each minute of content in excess of a first three minutes of content.

15 14. An article of manufacture for preventing an attack on a screening algorithm, the article comprising a machine readable medium containing one or more programs which when executed implement the steps of:

identifying content to be downloaded;

20 determining a total number of sections of a predetermined duration of time in the content to be downloaded; and

screening a predetermined number of sections of the total number of sections to determine whether the predetermined number of sections verify correctly through the screening algorithm.

25 15. The article of manufacture for preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 14 wherein the predetermined duration of time of one or more of the total number of sections is fifteen seconds.

16. The article of manufacture for preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 14 further comprising the step of determining a total length of time of the content prior to the screening step.

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17. The article of manufacture for preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 14 wherein the predetermined number of sections is equal to two for content having a duration of three minutes or less.

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18. The article of manufacture for preventing an attack on a screening algorithm as recited in claim 14 wherein the predetermined number of sections is incremented by one for each one minute of duration over the initial three minutes.